(c) The expected commissioning dates of the on-going project(s) are as follows:

	Project	Commissioning Date
i.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97
ii.	Gazuwaka B/B Project HVDC	2/99
iii.	Sasaram B/B HVDC	3/2000
iv.	400 KV Bongaigaon—Malda	3/98
v.	Talcher—Bangalore HVDC	2001-02
vi	(a) Ib Valley—Jaipur HVDC	12/2001
	(b) Ib Valley—Raipur AC system	6/2001
vii.	400 KV Raipur—Rourkela	2001/02
viii.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Bihar

63. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is surplus power in eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite surplus power in the region, there is acute shortage of power in the Eastern States particularly in Bihar which caused closure of small scale industries of the region; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Eastern Region is having surplus power during off-peak period. However, there is peak deficit in varying degree in all the States in the Region.

(c) and (d) The energy and peaking shortage in the Eastern Region including Bihar during April-October, 1997 and in Oct., 1997 is given below:—

State/System	Energy shortage (%)		Peaking Shortage (%)	
	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97
Bihar	22.9	22.6	43.7	43.7
D.V.C.	5.1	5.4	25.4	20.1
Orissa	4.1	6.0	13.4	13.4
West Bengal	1.5	1.6	7.0	7.0
Eastern Region	7.2	7.9	20.0	20.0

In Bihar, there is no statutory power cut on industries. However, the main reasons for power shortage in Bihar is State's inadequate sub-transmission & distribution network, poor performance of thermal power stations of Bihar State Electricity Board and inability of the State Government to pay for the power from Central Generating Stations.

[English]

Common Minimum Programme

64. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken by the Government to implement their Common Minimum programme (CMP); and

(b) the specific achievement made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CGHS Facilities to Retired Persons

65. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after recent acceptance of recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission in a modified form, pensioners not covered under CGHS are entitled to reimbursement of cost of treatment as in-patients as applicable in the cases of serving employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission have recommended that:—

> "CS(MA) Rules, 1944 should be extended to pensioners, in a restricted manner so as to facilitate reimbursement of hospital recognised under CGHS or under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose. Such reimbursement claims should be settled in full by the respective Ministry/Deptt. of the pensioner under the provisions of CS(MA) Rules."

This proposal is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Sanitations in Hospitals

66. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarrad Question No. 2385 on August 6, 1997 and state: